

SEVERE LOCAL STORMS FOR DECEMBER 1947

[The table hereunder contains such data as have been received concerning severe local storms that occurred during the month. A revised list will appear in the United States Meteorological Yearbook]

Place	Date	Time	Width of path, yards	Loss of life	Value of property destroyed	Character of storm	Remarks
Phoenix, Ariz.....	2	2:45-3:10 p. m., M. S. T.	50-100	0	-----	Small tornado.....	A tornado aloft, after which tube dissipated. Parent cloud obscured by lower layer through which funnel cloud penetrated. Tube portion approximately horizontal most of its length, with lower end slanting more sharply toward ground. Lower clouds were at 9,000 feet. A DE-4 pilot at 1,100 feet reported what appeared to be a tornado in vicinity of Phoenix. Tornado moved northeastward, passing west and north of Phoenix. Hail fell. A heavy rain shower occurred. No especially strong winds on surface, except vicinity of Six Points on West McDowell Road. 1- and 2-inch planks scattered and damaged to extent of about \$50. 2 steel trailers, weighing 2,500 pounds each, lifted into the air, twirled around, and 1 dropped upside down; no appreciable damage. Whirl of wind estimated by eye witnesses to be 50 to 100 feet in diameter; its path on the surface only about ¼ mile long; filled with dust and blowing paper, but otherwise not especially dark or opaque.
Dodge City, Kans., north- eastward across State.	2-3	Evening 2d- afternoon 3d.	-----	-----	\$3,050,400	Ice and glaze.....	Reported as worst storm of this nature in this section. Traffic delayed; power and communication lines broken; cars damaged by falling limbs; trees and shrubs split and broken. Livestock suffered severely and unharvested grain sorghums were damaged.
Nebraska: southeastern por- tion south of Platte River, and northeastern portion.	3-4	Late after- noon of 3d, continuing into 4th.	140-160	-----	97,000	Freezing rain (glaze).....	Over 1,000 poles of telephone and power lines required replacement; over 22,000 wire breaks. Much damage to trees, not included in estimate. Considerable interruption to motor traffic. Ice increased diameter of ½-inch wires to 1 to 2 inches.
Iowa: wide belt from south- west to northeast.	3-4	-----	-----	-----	-----	Sleet and snow.....	Freezing rain coated communication lines with ¼ to 1½ inches of ice; heaviest accumulation in southwest, where many telephone lines broke down: damage to lines estimated at more than \$300,000.
Iowa, northwest half.....	7	-----	-----	-----	-----	do.....	1 to 6 inches new snow, preceded by some rain and glaze, formed an additional coating on telephone and power circuits; lines also whipped by strong winds; numerous breaks occurred.
Simmesport, La.....	8	5:45-6 a. m.	-----	-----	5,000	Wind.....	Storm moved northeastward; unroofed 7 or 8 homes, destroyed several outbuildings, and uprooted considerable timber.
Pensacola, Fla.....	15	8:25 a. m.	50	0	40,000	Tornado.....	Storm path about 1 mile long; 4 persons injured; 1 dwelling and store demolished; several dwellings suffered major damage.
Wilkes-Barre, Pa.....	16	12:43-3 a. m.	-----	-----	-----	Wind.....	Electric services disrupted; business district greatly damaged by winds up to 70 m. p. h.; more than a score of show windows shattered.
New York City, N. Y., and vicinity.	26-27	3:20 a. m. 26th- 3:05 a. m. 27th.	-----	4	-----	Snow.....	Heaviest snowfall of record brought all traffic to near standstill. Thousands of automobiles abandoned in streets and highways; commuters marooned. Only 60 percent of streets cleared by Jan. 2. Cost of snow removal and economic losses must be measured in unestimated millions of dollars.
Vanceville, Cotton Valley, Leton, Dykesville, and Haynesville, La.	31	4:00-4:30 p. m.	20-450	18	1,500,000	Tornado, heavy hail.	First observed crossing Louisiana Highway No. 10, just south of Vanceville, by a traveler who estimated diameter of tornado at 20 yards. Crossing wooded and swampy land, it struck the oil and farming town of Cotton Valley at 4:15 p. m., about ¼ mile south of business district, damaging 15 to 20 homes; then, swinging abruptly around bypassing the town on a westward track and looping, it struck business district again from southwest. Moving eastward, it struck small community of Leton, and from the south, Dykesville. At 4:30 p. m. passed over western and northern edge of Haynesville. At Cotton Valley, ¼ of the buildings destroyed or severely damaged; 14 persons dead, 200 injured; 100 homes, 50 business places, and an undetermined number of oil derricks destroyed. At Haynesville, 2 persons killed; 20 injured; 25 homes destroyed and 50 damaged. At Leton and Dykesville, 1 person killed at each place. Damages estimated at \$1,000,000 in Cotton Valley and \$150,000 at Haynesville, the remainder being at Leton, Dykesville, and intervening countryside. Mayor of Cotton Valley estimated time of passage over that town on both tracks as about 2 minutes.
Gillham, Ark.....	31	4 p. m. C. S. T.	20-200	0	30,000	Tornado.....	Struck first at Gillham; moved northeastward over mountainous and sparsely settled sections. Damaged 20 homes in Gillham; injured 3 people.
Three Creeks, and commu- nity 2 miles south of El Do- rado, Ark.	31	About 5 p. m.	30-100	0	4,000	do.....	Possibly same storm that originated near Shreveport, La. Damaged 6 homes; injured several people.
Strong, Ark.....	31	About 5 p. m.	-----	-----	1,500	Wind.....	Several houses unroofed.
Oxford, Ark.....	31	7 p. m. C. S. T.	-----	0	2,000	Tornado.....	Possibly same storm that struck Gillham. Damaged 3 homes; no injuries.
Arkansas; Columbia, Union, Jefferson, Lee, and Crit- tenden Counties.	31	7:45-10:30 p. m.	50-150	2	178,000	do.....	Originated just south of Magnolia; moved northeastward. In Columbia and Union Counties, 1 person killed; 10 injured; 12 homes, 1 gymnasium, and 10 oil rigs destroyed. Struck Gethsemene, Jefferson Co., about 9 p. m.; several tenants' homes destroyed; 1 person killed; 10 injured. Hit Marianna and Brikeys sections of Lee Co., about 9:45 p. m.; 30 homes damaged; 75 people injured. Passed over edge of Marion in Crittenden Co., about 10:30 p. m., damaging 3 homes, injuring 1 person. This appears to have been one tornado that continued into Tennessee as windstorm.
Grenada, Miss.....	31	Late p. m.	-----	-----	-----	Wind.....	Apparently not a tornado. Considerable timber blown down; barns demolished.
Munford, Tenn.....	31	10:15 p. m. C. S. T.	3,960	-----	26,000	High winds, heavy rain, light hail, and lightning.	Two small homes demolished. Damage to trees, power and telephone lines, windows, chimneys, roofs. Two persons slightly injured. No indication of a tornado.
Milan, Newbern, and Eads, Tenn.	31	10:45 p. m. C. S. T.	660- 1,320	3	77,500	High winds and light hail.	Damage to telephone and power lines, trees, windows, chimneys, a few automobiles, farm equipment, tin roofs; about 22 small houses and outbuildings almost completely demolished; 9 persons injured. No evidence of a tornado.

¹ Miles instead of yards;

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LATE STORM REPORTS FOR AUGUST-NOVEMBER 1947

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Place	Date	Time	Width of path, yards	Loss of life	Value of property destroyed	Character of storm	Remarks
St. Louis, Mo.....	August 20	2-3 p. m.....			\$5,000	Thunderstorm and wind.	Storm from southwest damaged 2 buildings, injured 2 people. Trees and wires blown down; several small fires started by lightning.
Shelby County, Mo.....	20	3 p. m.....				Electrical.....	Lightning struck and burned barn 5 miles south of Shelbina.
Mercer and Putnam Counties, Mo.	September 11	Early morning.....	1 7-10	0		Tornado.....	Storm from northwest struck eastern part of Mercer and western part of Putnam Counties, resulting in considerable property and crop damage. Numerous homes, barns, outbuildings, trees, wires, and few windmills damaged or blown down; most haystacks in storm path blown down or tops blown off. Considerable damage to corn and soybeans by hail.
Callaway County, Mo.....	11	11:10-11:25 a. m.	1 1	0	10,000do.....	Storm from southwest struck few miles south and east of Fulton, damaging homes, barns, outbuildings, trees, wires, and killing poultry. Moderate hail damaged corn and gardens; stones 1 to 1½ inches in diameter. Crop damage estimated at \$1,000. Driving rain caused much damage.
Iowa: central and northern portions.	November 14-15					Heavy snow.....	Heavy, wet snow, with amounts up to 10 inches, covered most of State night of 14th. Weight of snow or fallen tree limbs caused scattered wire breaks in telephone and telegraph lines. Storm damage to telephone lines alone estimated from \$50,000 to \$75,000.

¹ Miles instead of yards.